

Ted Stevens

United States Senator For Alaska



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STEVENS BEGINS SIXTH FULL TERM IN SENATE ***Will Serve as Senate President Pro Tempore***

At a ceremony today in the U.S. Capitol, Senator Stevens began his sixth full term in the U.S. Senate.

Stevens, the most senior Senate Republican, was sworn in shortly after noon. He was escorted by Senator Lisa Murkowski. Vice President Dick Cheney administered the oath of office.

Holding two bibles – one he carried during World War II and the other his grandmother's – Senator Stevens was subsequently elected and sworn-in as President pro tempore of the Senate, a position customarily reserved for the majority party senator with the longest continuous service. He was escorted by Majority Leader Frist, Minority Leader Daschle, and Senators Inouye, Byrd, and Cochran.

The U.S. Constitution establishes the office of the President pro tempore to preside over the Senate in the Vice President's absence. Since 1947, the President pro tempore has stood third in line to succeed to the presidency, after the Vice President and Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Senator Stevens is expected to resume the Chairmanship of the Senate Appropriations Committee when the Senate passes its organizing resolution. He will continue his membership on the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, the Senate Commerce Committee, and the Senate Rules Committee.

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